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KING COUNTY  
2007-2008  
Charter Review Commission

PUBLIC HEARING

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6:30 p.m.  
July 10, 2007  
Black Diamond Community Center  
Black Diamond, Washington

REPORTED BY: Yvonne A. Gillette, CCR No. 2129.

COMMISSIONERS:

TERRY LAVENDER

JOHN JENSEN

ALLAN MUNRO

MIKE LOWRY

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MR. JENSEN: There's just a couple of people to get signed in, and we'll get started.

In addition to your opportunity to have input in this process, it's also really nice for the commission to see this kind of turn out. My name is John Jensen. I'm a board member and past president of the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce. I am one of 21 commissioners.

There are several other commissioners here tonight. To my far left tonight is Governor Mike Lowry. And to my left is Mr. Allan Munro, an attorney. And to my right is Terry Lavender, who is from the unincorporated area near Woodinville. Councilman Dunn will not make it.

Also here tonight, we have our charter review coordinator, who's Mark Yango, and next to him is Corrie Watterson who is the project manager. And the person you first saw checking you in was Charlotte Ohashi, which is the administrative liaison. And to her right is Hong Ni, the executive assistant. And there are a few other-- sorry. Right here in front of me. Mary Kate and Gus and Bret. They are interns working with the county.

1           So what is the charter review commission? We  
2           are a group of citizens appointed by King County  
3           Executive Ron Sims. There is a mixture of  
4           professions and obviously both genders. There are  
5           people from the rural areas, urban areas, and we  
6           think we have a good mix of diversity on the  
7           Commission.

8           What have we done so far? This is the last of  
9           nine public outreach meetings. We have also reached  
10          out to over 360 organizations in the county. So we  
11          have heard from Municipal League, Suburban Cities,  
12          League of Women Voters, and the unincorporated area  
13          councils.

14          I would like to give the floor now to Corrie  
15          Watterson, and she's going to tell you a little bit  
16          more about the process itself.

17          (Powerpoint presentation by Ms. Watterson.)

18          MR. JENSEN: Thank you very much, Corrie. We  
19          don't have that many people that signed up to speak,  
20          so we're going to be loose with the amount of time  
21          that you have. That being said, you will also be--  
22          you have the opportunity to continue your input.  
23          You could send e-mails, submit written information.  
24          And we'll be looking at that until we finish with  
25          this task.

1           So we'll go three to five minutes. There are  
2           a couple that would like to make longer  
3           presentations. I want to hold that to the end. You  
4           may have questions from the commissioners. That's  
5           been one of the most enjoyable and I think revealing  
6           parts of these hearings is when there can be a  
7           little bit of a dialogue.

8           The first speaker is going to be Gregory  
9           Sender. And the second speaker will be Tom  
10          Carpenter.

11          MR. SENDER: There's a lot more people when  
12          you look at it going there way. Mr. Governor and  
13          members of council and my fellow King County  
14          residents, I would like to read this excerpt from  
15          the Seattle Times, and it tells exactly what I  
16          wanted to voice, if that's okay. This is from  
17          Richard DeBall and Mike Hewett. Making legislation  
18          is like making sausage, the saying goes. It can be  
19          a messy and unsightly process. But sometimes the  
20          right decision is so clear and important, that  
21          lawmakers can address citizens' needs in a quick and  
22          tidy manner.

23          That's where we find ourselves with Initiative  
24          747 the property tax protection law voters approved  
25          in 2001. In a stretch of logic, a King County judge

1 declared it unconstitutional suggesting the  
2 58 percent of voters who approved the initiative  
3 were confused when they limited their regular  
4 property tax increases to one percent a year without  
5 voter approval.

6 In our opinion, the judge's ruling is yet  
7 another broad swipe by the Courts at voters' rights  
8 to self-government. To his credit, State Attorney  
9 General, Rob McKenna, petitioned for a stay until  
10 the decision was appealed to the Washington Supreme  
11 Court.

12 The Court however could take months to act.  
13 Perhaps a quicker and easier answer is for lawmakers  
14 to assemble for one day and put this property tax  
15 limit back on the books. House and Senate  
16 Republicans have called on Governor Christine  
17 Gregoire and Democratic legislative leaders to  
18 convene a special session.

19 Why go to the time and expense if the case is  
20 under appeal? There are three important reasons.  
21 First, to protect property owners from needless tax  
22 increases.

23 The Department of Revenue shows I-747 has  
24 saved taxpayers about one billion since it passed.  
25 Without voter approval, local government tax

1 increases can jump from one percent to six percent.  
2 Although no jurisdiction has taken advantage of the  
3 higher threshold, the window remains open, creating  
4 a temptation for local governments to raise property  
5 taxes. That could cost Washington property owners  
6 27 to 225 million a year.

7 Second, quick action is necessary because many  
8 cities and counties are developing their 2007  
9 budgets. A reinstated I-747 would give them clear  
10 parameters in line with citizens' wishes and avoid  
11 problems for local taxing districts only to have  
12 those taxes voided later by the Supreme Court.

13 Finally, this is a matter of protecting the  
14 people's right to decide issues for themselves. The  
15 Courts have trampled repeatedly on this right by  
16 overturning initiatives on technical grounds. If  
17 judges want to legislate from the bench, lawmakers  
18 have a right to uphold the will of the people. The  
19 judicial and legislative branches are equal branches  
20 of government. And all power comes from the people  
21 we serve.

22 The governor and other Democrats say a one day  
23 special session is not worth the cost. For that  
24 taxpayers would save at least 27 million. A great  
25 return on your investment.

1           After the ruling, the governor said she wanted  
2           to reach a compromise on the issue, something higher  
3           than the one percent limit voters approved.

4           Translated, that means a tax increase. Homeowners  
5           don't want a compromise. Voters spoke clearly in  
6           2001 saying they didn't want property taxes raised  
7           more than one percent a year without their approval.

8           We are confident the State Supreme Court will  
9           overturn the King County ruling. But if the Court  
10          doesn't act quickly, the legislature must.  
11          Washington taxpayers deserve no less.

12          My current taxes are almost four hundred bucks  
13          a month right now on my home. And I talk to people  
14          all the time who were being taxed out of their  
15          homes, that are being forced to move to other  
16          locations because their taxes go up constantly.

17          Some of our founding fathers -- it was called  
18          the Boston Tea Party. Taxation without  
19          representation, I believe, was the reason they had  
20          it. I feel like when you take away the will of the  
21          people and just one judge can take it and throw it  
22          out -- we the people have voted for it. It makes me  
23          feel like my freedoms are eroding. And I think it's  
24          dangerous. I wrote a letter to the governor, and  
25          she said she was willing to make a compromise. It



1       snowed kind of over. I got a bunch of political  
2       double talk.

3               I had to get up here and voice my opinion.  
4       And I wish someone would address that and tell me  
5       what's being done. Why should I go to the polls and  
6       vote? Why should I worry about voting if nobody  
7       listens? And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

8               AUDIENCE MEMBER: His opinion is our opinion  
9       too.

10              MR. SENDER: Everybody sits by and blindly  
11       lets them-- I don't know what else to say.

12              MR. JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Sender.

13              Mr. Carpenter. And after Mr. Carpenter is  
14       Steve Hammond.

15              MR. CARPENTER: Good evening. And thank you  
16       very much for the opportunity to talk again.

17              Again, my name is Tom Carpenter. Along with  
18       being a resident in the unincorporated area outside  
19       of Renton, I chair the Four Creeks Unincorporated  
20       Area Growth Management Committee. I'm really glad  
21       that you guys are willing to come out and have these  
22       conversations.

23              Let me be brief. I wanted to restate just one  
24       thing that I talked to you about when we met in May.  
25       I remember the end chart in that presentation. The

1 title was shared vision. You asked a question when  
2 we started this presentation, or started tonight  
3 about what you believe the challenges are for the  
4 next ten years, the charter review being a ten year  
5 cycle, and the opportunity for learning only occurs  
6 every ten years.

7 The question is, which one is most important.  
8 For me, in 1990, across the country, there was an  
9 unprecedented amount of environmental legislation  
10 that was passed in the state of Washington that  
11 turned out to be the Growth Management Act. Those  
12 kinds of acts have a long learning cycle time.

13 We're 17 years into that activity. And  
14 although I tend to agree that in the beginning,  
15 strong legislation to be able to put things into  
16 play was the right answer, it unfortunately today  
17 has let the pendulum swing a little too far. I'm  
18 not an environmentalist or any kind of radical. I  
19 believe in the area I have lived in. What I want is  
20 to be able to drive down this road and continue to  
21 see lots of trees and some buffering from the  
22 housing that's going on.

23 Unfortunately right now, what's happening both  
24 in terms of the way we have structured the county  
25 counsel and the way the dialogue is going on, there

1 is a very divisive kind of environment going on  
2 between what I would consider to be urban thinkers  
3 and rural thinkers. Or you could get them between  
4 property rights people and socialists to use another  
5 term. That divisiveness when we need to do some  
6 soul searching is counterproductive.

7 The challenge we're going to give to the  
8 county council -- they will be out for another UAC  
9 meeting shortly. One of the challenges is going to  
10 be is how to stop that divisiveness. I made some  
11 recommendations about restructuring the county  
12 council. I also recognized-- and the recommendation  
13 was that we needed to take a look at things like,  
14 perhaps splitting up the council into two houses.  
15 Whether that can be done legally or not, I don't  
16 know.

17 What I challenge the charter review commission  
18 to do is to look for more and more ways in which we  
19 can deal with this situation over the ten years to  
20 remove this polarity that appears to be going on  
21 between different types of groups. Environmental  
22 groups on one side and industrialization on the  
23 other side. Neither are right, and neither are  
24 wrong.

25 What we have to do is find a way to walk a

1 line together. And the charter of this county is an  
2 important backbone to that activity. So please,  
3 along with all the other things, keep in mind that  
4 we got to get rid of the divisiveness. And also  
5 recognize this is an 80-20 split. Somehow or other,  
6 we have got to get the voice of the people who are  
7 in the unincorporated areas. They are the stewards  
8 and custodians of the land. They are the ones that  
9 have done this stuff out here. But the development  
10 is really causing the trauma among the people that  
11 live here. Somehow or others we have got to do this  
12 development in a lot more sensitive manner. And the  
13 only way to do it is get this divisiveness dialogue  
14 out of the process.

15 MR. JENSEN: Mr. Steve Hammond.

16 MR. HAMMOND: Thank you very much for this  
17 opportunity. And I would like to say that much of  
18 what I feel was included in the previous testimony.  
19 So there's no sense in going back over that again.  
20 The nature of the charter -- and by the way, one of  
21 the previous reviews is where we got the  
22 unincorporated area councils. They have no teeth.  
23 The council still has the final say. But they were  
24 attempting to try to address that.

25 A major part of what is happening in the

1 charter -- and I appreciate the conciliatory nature.  
2 But a previous speaker was making reference to the  
3 Boston Tea Party. It was the same feeling of being  
4 governed by someone who does not live among you that  
5 caused those feelings. And that's what has been so  
6 contentious since the Growth Management Act.

7 And now if you're not aware with the recent  
8 Supreme Court decision, McFarland versus King  
9 County, the whole right of referendum and initiative  
10 was eviscerated. Growth Management Act has become  
11 the 2000 pound elephant in the room. If someone  
12 claims something is Growth Management now, it is no  
13 longer subject to the voice of the people. That  
14 ruling has basically escalated the contentiousness  
15 and frustration.

16 The King County government essentially has the  
17 same ability to rule in the urban area and the rural  
18 area in criminal justice. There's not a lot of  
19 difference in deciding if someone is breaking the  
20 law, how they should be dealt with, whether they;  
21 should be punished, etc. That sort of thing is not  
22 an urban versus rural. Unfortunately most of what  
23 county government was originally intended for was to  
24 govern those who were not inside any other kind of  
25 jurisdiction. It was meant to be the most local

1 government for unincorporated areas.

2 In King County, we obviously have a situation  
3 where thanks to Reagan Dunn moving outside into the  
4 rural areas just recently, we now at least have one  
5 person who lives in the unincorporated area. Be  
6 that as it may, before that point, what I did two  
7 years ago in the campaign was to draw a line from  
8 Woodinville to Federal Way lives and realize all  
9 nine council members lived west of that line, none  
10 of them in unincorporated areas.

11 So we are being governed by those who do not  
12 live among us, don't represent us. And I have often  
13 said we are being treated as if we are the county's  
14 free zoo so that people in the urban areas can feel  
15 good about saving the environment and can drive out  
16 here and look at our animals for free.

17 And that's sort of the feeling we get as the  
18 rules and regulations come down. I will also tell  
19 you that I spent an awful lot of time with clients  
20 who are in trouble with DDES. And DDES is not  
21 always following their own rules. DDES, Department  
22 of Developmental Environmental Services. And it's a  
23 mouthful to say, DDES.

24 So but let me give you two examples. One of  
25 the most egregious, I have three clients right now

1       who had a building damaged either by wind, fire or  
2       water. When I was on the council, it was the last  
3       major comp plan review and the critical areas  
4       ordinance all coming down in the same year. Very  
5       contentious year.

6               We were promised on camera under testimony  
7       that DDES would allow buildings to be rebuilt.  
8       Today, however, I want to promise you that no one is  
9       being allowed to have a building rebuilt after it's  
10      damaged by wind, fire, or water, unless they can  
11      meet all the new and current codes. That's contrary  
12      to what we were promised. Very rarely does any  
13      building that's damaged in that way still meet the  
14      current codes. The person is being told, of course  
15      you can rebuild. You can't rebuild what you had in  
16      the location you had it.

17             I could give another example. And that  
18      example would be code enforcement, which a number of  
19      code enforcement officers have alleged things to  
20      clients, citizens, which when I showed up on the  
21      scene and said, excuse me, I don't think that's the  
22      law, can you show me that, turned out to be it  
23      wasn't the law. These kinds of things make for a  
24      feeling of bad police. Now, DDES is not police, but  
25      many people say code enforcement in a law

1 enforcement kind of role. It comes across very  
2 egregiously when you find out the person you have  
3 been trying to cooperate with isn't giving you the  
4 straight skinny.

5 Several other examples could be given. As  
6 long as a situation exists where the legislation is  
7 being made by those who neither are impacted  
8 personally by the laws they pass nor have to stand  
9 for election by voters who themselves are impacted  
10 by the laws they pass, where is the incentive for  
11 them to hear us? I don't vote for Larry Phillips.  
12 I don't vote for Dow Constantine. You know, go down  
13 the list. I have one council representative I vote  
14 for. The rest of them pass the laws with impunity.  
15 And many of them govern entirely -- are you hearing  
16 me? -- entirely urban districts with no  
17 unincorporated area.

18 Dow Constantine has some on Vashon. Kathy  
19 Lambert has the largest portion of unincorporated  
20 area. That leaves six of them that regulate only  
21 incorporated area. County government is meant to be  
22 a local thing. If you live in a city, and your  
23 plumbing breaks down, you don't say, I need to call  
24 my councilman.

25 Legally, I understand we have been told one



1 person, one vote. And we have had a very difficult  
2 time dealing with how do you get one person, one  
3 vote and still give the unincorporated areas their  
4 say. But I want to tell you, our problem is not  
5 sewage. Our problem is somewhat waste water,  
6 because the regulations are coming down on us by  
7 folks who essentially aren't-- I mean, I wish I  
8 could just go story after story. Look at the  
9 farmers who were told they had to put in concrete  
10 bunkers because they needed to protect the ground  
11 water. Concrete is porous. Whose's expense?  
12 Yours, cost of doing business. They put them in.  
13 Two years later, the soil was tested. Seepage is  
14 still there. It's coming through concrete. They  
15 said you you're going to have to tear them out. At  
16 whose expense? Yours, cost of doing business.  
17 People who didn't know what they were doing are  
18 passing regulations. These things escalate.

19 When I was a councilmember in district nine, I  
20 had two people living side by side, one of whom who  
21 voluntarily got in the Ag Commission program for  
22 development rights, giving those away. Right next  
23 door, the person decided not to do so. And the next  
24 year the council down zoned them, and they lost  
25 their rights anyway. One got paid and one didn't.

1           These kinds of things have-- there has to be  
2           more voice from here. And it can't just be  
3           testimony that is largely ignored. It has to be  
4           that we sense we're being heard, listened to. And  
5           it's land use that rises to the top. I attended an  
6           Ag Commission meeting recently where they are  
7           considering restricting the size of the house.  
8           Where in the world did you get there?

9           So all of these things pressuring on us really  
10          boil down to land use, fees, zoning regulations,  
11          land use regulations, ag rules, all of those kinds  
12          of things. But they are being passed by those who  
13          don't live among us, aren't affected by the rules,  
14          and aren't elected by the people who live by the  
15          rules.

16          MR. JENSEN: Next is Kathy Myers, and after  
17          Kathy will be David Field.

18          MS. MYERS: I live in the rural  
19          unincorporated section of Maple Valley. Kind of  
20          amusing, how can county government serve you better?  
21          How can King County government simultaneously meet  
22          the needs of urban and rural residents? It can't.  
23          When you have a government where the vast majority  
24          of people are totally unaccountable to the rural  
25          residents on issues that affect only rural

1 residents, it can't be effective. It will never be  
2 fair.

3 I guess in a theoretical sense, it could be.  
4 If the politicians were all motivated solely by  
5 doing the best and being ethical. I don't think  
6 anybody that lives in the rural land finds that to  
7 be the case with the King County Council.

8 The rural residents have to be governed by  
9 people who are accountable to them when it comes  
10 time to vote. If we're not, we are never going to  
11 be given fair treatment. I have lived in Maple  
12 Valley for 18 years. And King County has worked  
13 very hard to urbanize the rural lands. The rural  
14 people have protested consistently the urbanization  
15 of our lands to no effect whatsoever, because,  
16 again, those politicians are not accountable to us.  
17 They don't care what we think.

18 When the Growth Management Act was passed, the  
19 county was required to put labels on the areas. The  
20 label that they put on the half of Maple Valley that  
21 had sewers was ludicrous. I think it stated that we  
22 were a regional draw. If you drove 20 minutes away,  
23 you found people that had never heard of Maple  
24 Valley. We had politicians that would literally get  
25 lost when they came to Maple Valley. And these were

1       our representatives.

2               So they put this label on us, that said we  
3       were this wonderful essentially urban area. We  
4       weren't. I called down to Olympia. Are they  
5       required to label us urban because we have sewers?  
6       Absolutely not. They are allowed by law to do that,  
7       but the label should be accurate. It's not. What  
8       can we do? Nothing. Apparently it's a bottoms up  
9       piece of legislation, which means citizens are  
10      supposed to force the legislators to abide by the  
11      law by voting.

12             So they put this label on half of Maple  
13      Valley. So they whip out that magic eraser, erase  
14      rural and put in urban. And now when you drive  
15      through that portion of Maple Valley, it's  
16      appalling. We are a rural community with urban  
17      levels of traffic.

18             I drive through and look at all of the land  
19      that used to be beautiful forests and is now boxes  
20      sitting ten feet from each other. It's disgusting.  
21      This from a King County council that pays lip  
22      service to how deeply it cares about protecting the  
23      rural land. They don't care at all about protecting  
24      the rural land. In my opinion, they chose to do  
25      this to Maple Valley, because they had two choices.

1       There is a growing demand for more houses here. The  
2       development has to go somewhere. They could put it  
3       in the backyards of those urban constituents that  
4       get to vote for them, or they could put in the  
5       backyards of the rural people who don't vote for  
6       them. Of course they chose to urbanize the rural  
7       part of Maple Valley.

8               That was totally inaccurate and unfair. We  
9       had no say in what happened. So here's this King  
10      County council that professes to care about keeping  
11      rural areas rural. And they slaughter Maple Valley,  
12      sell it out to developers. After that, they came up  
13      with a 401 program. Again, we protested with  
14      absolutely no effect whatsoever.

15             And now king County's at it again. There's  
16      150 some acres in Maple Valley. It's surrounded by  
17      incorporated land, but it is rural King County,  
18      unincorporated land. King County is going to  
19      designate it urban and sell it to a developer.

20             I am an environmentalist, by the way. It is  
21      incredibly important, critically important to  
22      protect habitat in the urban area. King County has  
23      an opportunity to do this on this land. And if they  
24      cared about protecting urban land, that's what they  
25      would be doing. It's a done deal.

1           As a speaker said, we don't have any  
2       representation truly. They don't care about us.  
3       They never will, until they have to, and that's not  
4       going to happen. I believe a previous charter  
5       review commission did recommend to them that they  
6       find a way for the-- for people like me to have a  
7       voice. Of course, it was their option as to whether  
8       to pay attention to that or totally blow it off.  
9       And we know what they did. I don't know if there's  
10      anything more that you can do or that you can tell  
11      us that we can do. We're helpless. As I said, they  
12      are not accountable, and they don't want to be.

13           Efficient? Anyone who is working with DDES--  
14      no. It now takes about a year and a half to get a  
15      building permit for a regular person. I tried to do  
16      a development. Sorry. Good heavens. I tried to  
17      build a house for my parents. And I went in -- over  
18      the course of three months, I went in several times.  
19      Every time, oh, gee, you need this too. It is a  
20      model of inefficiency. I suspect there are so many  
21      regulations, they can't keep them straight. Is  
22      there anything we can do? Is there anything you can  
23      do?

24           MR. JENSEN: I think it's a good question.  
25      And it's definitely a theme that we have heard here.

1 I do appreciate it. What I would like to do before  
2 we start to engage in a dialogue is to make sure we  
3 get to the speakers, but I appreciate what you're  
4 saying.

5 This is David Field. And the next speaker  
6 will be Warren Iverson.

7 MR. FIELD: I'm glad to see you tonight. We  
8 had a solution for this. But you wouldn't help me,  
9 sir. My name is Dave Fields. I live in Hobart.  
10 You previously heard Four Creeks' presentation on  
11 their ideas. And for the most part, I agree with  
12 it. And but I have got a couple of things that I  
13 would like to see changed in it.

14 Number one, I would like to see the King  
15 County budget office as an autonomous unit, not part  
16 of the executive's dwell. All too often, if they  
17 want a particular social program in the urban  
18 area -- the first time it was Guardian One was going  
19 to disappear. Well, we suddenly found some more  
20 money somehow for Guardian One. But all too often,  
21 the budget is used as a toy to coerce what the  
22 county executive wants out of the county council.

23 The second thing I would like to see with that  
24 agency is that all budgets be zero based. That  
25 means you have to justify your expenditures. You

1 have to actually go through and say, well, I have  
2 got this many people, and I need this much money.  
3 Well, you gave me 35,000 last year. How about  
4 60,000 this year? That's not cost effective. And  
5 very often, if you have tried to read King County  
6 budgets as I have. Without a lawyer on one side and  
7 an accountant on the other, you don't know what they  
8 say anyhow.

9 That's my second suggestion. My third is  
10 about DDES, but I have got an idea. King County  
11 could do this if they would. But I think that as a  
12 charter item, it might get a little further credence  
13 than we have been able to get it so far. I would  
14 like to see the revenues that pay for DDES positions  
15 taken out of the general fund, not as fees that they  
16 charge to the clientele. Because what incentive do  
17 you have to complete a project in a timely manner if  
18 when you do so, you're cutting your own throat,  
19 because you're not going to get enough in your  
20 budget?

21 The other thing I would like to see happen is  
22 a spin off of environmental services from  
23 development, I would like to see development have a  
24 flat fee schedule. And sensible fees, darn it. Not  
25 \$35,000 to put a house in. Environmental services



1           rightly belongs with surface water management.

2           Now, third, and this is a little bit --  
3           because I'm getting that age too. For 16 years, I  
4           have had the honor of representing the Hobart area  
5           to the greater Maple Valley area council. And over  
6           that time, I have seen family after family after  
7           family move out because they can no longer afford to  
8           live in King County.

9           These are retirement age people, people that  
10          no longer have a salary. They then find themselves  
11          faced with the medical problems that we all have.  
12          With the price of oil heat, which is horrendous this  
13          last year -- the new electrical rates went up. They  
14          have got all kinds of problems. And then comes the  
15          tax bill. And, oh, my lord, how am I going to pay  
16          that and feed us and get my medicine and everything  
17          else? And they can't do it, a lot of them. So they  
18          pack up, they sell, they leave the homes they love,  
19          the children they have raised, and the house they  
20          thought they were going to retire in.

21          Well, without the state changing everything  
22          we're probably not going to limit property taxes,  
23          even though we would all like to, and we voted for  
24          it. But another suggestion, that persons 62 years  
25          and older who have lived in their houses for ten

1 years or more be granted immunity from all King  
2 County generated taxes as far as property taxes go.  
3 And that they must continue to live in the house  
4 that they received the exemption on. In other  
5 words, they can't go to a more expensive house, but  
6 the home that they have occupied for the last ten  
7 years. That seems fair to me. They paid their  
8 share. They have gotten their kids through school.  
9 But this isn't really affecting any of those taxes  
10 either, because the school taxes aren't affected by  
11 this. Just the county generated taxes, not the fire  
12 districts, not the schools, not the EMS, not the  
13 library tax. I would like to say the port tax, but  
14 you can't do that either. But just the generated  
15 taxes from King County would make a big difference  
16 whether these people stay in their homes or leave.

17 And that's all I have, thank you.

18 MR. JENSEN: The next speaker is Mr. Iverson.  
19 And the speaker after that is Richard Bonewitz.

20 MR. IVERSON: My name is Warren Iverson. And  
21 I'm from Hobart area. I'm also a founding member of  
22 the greater Maple Valley area council and still on  
23 the council.

24 We had a wonderful presentation last week. I  
25 think it was from Mr. Carpenter, the Four Creeks

1 council. And basically, I would support anything,  
2 any proposal he comes up with. You folks have an  
3 awesome responsibility, a challenge beyond what I  
4 can foresee. Whether you can do it or not, do you  
5 have the political wherewithal, the guts to do this  
6 thing, the ability to do this thing beyond politics.  
7 As I see the main focus-- well, Dave alluded earlier  
8 to Cedar County. The three things that came up out  
9 of that was lack of representation. Have we heard  
10 that tonight? High taxes. Have you heard that  
11 tonight? And help me out-- oh, the over protection  
12 of services whether it's a \$35,000 house permit. In  
13 Black Diamond here, I believe in the next five  
14 years, they want to build ten thousand houses in the  
15 city of black diamond. The city of Maple Valley  
16 wants to build another two thousand, plus another  
17 two thousand in the doughnut hole.

18 In the rural area, Mr. Bonewitz may allude to  
19 this, less than one percent growth, one percent, not  
20 fifteen thousand homes, three hundred homes, one  
21 home. There's been a mention about a 1900 square  
22 foot code size for a building in the rural area.  
23 Why? There's been mention by Mr. Sims, executive  
24 Sims of having a building permit for a home in the  
25 rural area in September have to address the global

1 warming issue, and you're driving from your house to  
2 your work place, how that's going to affect global  
3 warming in the rural area. One percenters, not in  
4 the city of Maple Valley, not in the city of Black  
5 Diamond, not Renton, not Seattle, the one  
6 percenters. Why?

7 I believe the easiest change but the most  
8 difficult change is to reapportion the county with  
9 nine council districts. Take six of them divided by  
10 land, and take the other three at large districts.  
11 Divide the county north to south in three different  
12 districts, and one across the center from east to  
13 west. Six districts, three at large would make a  
14 county council of nine, but the representation we're  
15 lacking now would be there for the rural area, I  
16 believe.

17 Thanks again for your time. I hope you're up  
18 to the challenge.

19 MR. JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Iverson.

20 The next speaker is Pat Trob and after Pat  
21 will be Cory Olson.

22 MS. TRAUB: Thank you for letting me speak.  
23 I'm from Enumclaw. I work on a farm. I just got--  
24 the vet was there. My neighbors are out haying.  
25 They are milking cows. And they are taking care of

1       their livestock. That's why a lot of them don't get  
2       involved in those kinds of things. Because on a  
3       sunny day like this, they are working. And that's  
4       where I would be too, but this is important stuff.  
5       And I think one of the greatest challenges King  
6       County is going to meet now in the next ten years is  
7       to keep our rural lifestyle as it is.

8               When I drive from Enumclaw all the way up to  
9       Snohomish, and I see what's happening to our rural  
10      communities, it's terrible. That's not what we're  
11      about. We live out here for a lifestyle. And I  
12      know that it might be tough for some of you with  
13      clean shoes, but we live out here to be able to do  
14      the things that we feel is necessary for that  
15      lifestyle. It is a different way of thinking.

16             I belong to a small group, and we're trying to  
17      conserve ten thousand acres up here in the hills,  
18      because we don't want to drive down here and see  
19      houses up in those hills. We live here to look at  
20      the hills and enjoy them and not to have building  
21      going on. I think that's one of the greatest  
22      challenges for King County. How do we protect that  
23      rural lifestyle and not have the doughnut hole  
24      filled with houses?

25             If I have a problem, like someone said, I

1 don't go to the city of Enumclaw. They are going to  
2 say, that's nice. If I live in Federal Way, I can  
3 go to Federal Way. I can go to these other cities.  
4 I can go to Kent. If I live there, I have other  
5 options. The only option I have is King County. So  
6 that's why it's so important for you to represent me  
7 and all these people out here and all those people  
8 that are out haying and milking cows, because we  
9 want to keep that lifestyle.

10 And I know that we're going to grow, because  
11 it's a wonderful place to live. Great place to have  
12 kids. Great place to grow old. I don't want to  
13 have to at the end of ten years say, oh, my god, I  
14 can't believe they didn't listen to us and have to  
15 move someplace else, because the problems are just  
16 going to happen there too.

17 Representation of the rural area versus the  
18 urban. It's not always rural versus urban. I mean,  
19 I happen to like some of those urban amenities.  
20 Those are nice. But it's a choice. I live here. I  
21 have to drive to those things. One of the things  
22 our group has done has brought out Councilman Dunn,  
23 Gossett, Patterson, Larry Phillips, and brought them  
24 out to the farms to see what it's like. And we  
25 sometimes put them on a horse or a tractor, you

1 know, and that's a thrill. And if we can have  
2 councilmen come out and have that little bit of a  
3 thrill for that few minutes, just think what it's  
4 like for us who live here. And I don't want to lose  
5 that.

6 So, please, that's what I really want in the  
7 next ten years, to say, we did something that's  
8 worthwhile, that's going to last. Thank you.

9 MR. JENSEN: The next speaker is Cory Olson.

10 After Cory will be Mr. Hemstad.

11 MR. OLSON: Welcome to Black Diamond. I live  
12 down the road here about three or four miles with a  
13 mailing address in Black Diamond. However, I am not  
14 a resident of the City of Black Diamond. I'm in  
15 unincorporated King County, one of those rural  
16 people. When I came to Black Diamond, it was 30  
17 years ago. And the only contact I had with the King  
18 County library system, I had a library card and I  
19 went in and checked out books. And I used to check  
20 them out at the city hall. But then it got moved  
21 because the city needed space.

22 And in the year 2000, it was all going to be  
23 solved because Black Diamond was going to get a new  
24 library. And when the year 2000 came, and I went to  
25 the library, there was a little notice there that

1       said the King County Library Board had decided  
2       because their executive director recommended it,  
3       that they deferred a building for the Black Diamond  
4       library for nine years.

5               I wrote them, and I went up and told them that  
6       was baloney. And the board a few months later  
7       reversed its decision and continued its plan to  
8       build a library in Black Diamond. And since that  
9       time, there's been a running battle in Black Diamond  
10      between us and the King County library system to get  
11      a library. And we have gone through this process.  
12      I have joined the friends of the Black Diamond  
13      library. And we have discovered that our biggest  
14      problem has been the director of the King County  
15      library system. He is an employee of the library  
16      system, employed by the King County library board.

17             This board is one of, I think some fifty  
18      boards, committees and commissions of the county.  
19      People are selected by -- nominated by themselves or  
20      by councilman or somebody. And the exec selects the  
21      person, recommends it to the council, and the  
22      council approves it. And what we found is that I  
23      think those people are much like people on the  
24      United States Supreme Court. They are confirmed  
25      by-- appointed by the president, confirmed by the



1 Senate, and there for life, because no one can  
2 review any decisions by those committees or  
3 commissions or at least of the King County library  
4 board. Not even the council or the executive who  
5 put them there. And that's been kind of a problem.

6 Now, the board itself has got quality people  
7 on it. But they have been very fair in listening to  
8 the community. As a matter of fact, part of our  
9 battle with the executive is we have had to convince  
10 the board three different times to choose the site  
11 we want in this community. And every time we choose  
12 it, they do something to screw it up. The next to  
13 the last time, they wanted to put it next to the  
14 pawnshop. It's been horrendous.

15 But that King County library system, which may  
16 have been a great system when it was created, was a  
17 rural library system. They have dropped the title  
18 rural. It was the King County Rural Library  
19 Cooperative or association. They have dropped that,  
20 because over the years they have collected, or I  
21 guess you would say consolidated places like Black  
22 Diamond and Muckleshoot and Duvall and Carnation,  
23 but they have also absorbed everything except Renton  
24 and Seattle. They are the biggest library system in  
25 the -- one of the biggest library systems in the

1 United States. They compare themselves to the  
2 bureau of Brookland in New York. They are a  
3 tremendous system.

4 And it's a great resource, but you cannot get  
5 the system reviewed. You can't have somebody  
6 oversee it or come back on it if there's a problem.  
7 And we have had a problem. The first problem, every  
8 time we would do something, as I say, the executive  
9 would do something, use his power as an executive to  
10 stop us. And he would direct-- they have got over  
11 1,200 employees, 80 million-dollar budget. They  
12 have got a lot of money. A lot of-- it's going on  
13 all over the county.

14 But the directors themselves, the board  
15 members themselves are not elected by you. They are  
16 not representing any particular area of the county.  
17 They are just at large, all of them. And in this  
18 process, he used his authority -- for example, when  
19 we were winning issues with his board, he moved all  
20 the staff out of the Black Diamond library and  
21 started rotating around. A lot of them quit. And  
22 there's a bunch of strangers in the Black Diamond  
23 library. We didn't find out until later. We were  
24 one of the first people to be clustered.

25 They started to listen, and they finally

1        commissioned a report by an independent outfit about  
2        what was going on.

3                MR. JENSEN: I'll ask you to wrap it up if you  
4        would.

5                MR. OLSON: What they found out is there's a  
6        total lack of communication and leadership in the  
7        King County library system. And after hearing all  
8        that, and finding out all the things that were going  
9        on, what the board did, they rehired the director  
10       for another year, another term.

11               There's no way that we as people in all these  
12       different parts of the county can have that decision  
13       reviewed. That position should be either elected or  
14       there should be a process put in place where we can  
15       bring to the county a recall process where they  
16       review the actions of these boards like this rather  
17       than have them be elected for life.

18               MR. JENSEN: The next speaker is Mr. Anthony  
19       Hempstead.

20               MR. HEMSTAD: Thank you. We appreciate you  
21       coming down to Black Diamond tonight. I'm Anthony  
22       Hemstad. I'm the city manager of the city of  
23       Maple Valley. But tonight I'm hear to speak as an  
24       individual, not as a city manager.

25               I would like to recognize Linda Johnson, who's

1 in the audience tonight. Linda is a councilwoman  
2 from Maple Valley.

3 Commissioners, you have heard a variety of  
4 opinions and statements here tonight. I generally--  
5 one major theme has run through that. And that's  
6 the impact of the Growth Management Act on this part  
7 of the county. And obviously, with the King County  
8 Charter, land use is not a central issue in the King  
9 County Charter. But in this part of the county,  
10 that's really where the county government interfaces  
11 with citizens. And it truly is a central  
12 importance.

13 A couple of speakers did mention how GMA is  
14 relatively recent. About 17 years old. But it's  
15 impacting us in every conceivable way. Earlier  
16 speakers mentioned, not in necessarily a positive  
17 light, the development that's taken place in Maple  
18 Valley. Really that's the density that we see  
19 dictated by GMA. And there really isn't a choice to  
20 have less density unless it's in large apartment  
21 buildings.

22 But one thing that we very much would like to  
23 see is an agreement which we think is absolutely  
24 basic. And in some cases is so basic, it shouldn't  
25 even have to go into a charter or an ordinance or

1 elsewhere, but now-- if there are to be changes in  
2 the urban growth boundary, if the urban growth  
3 boundary is going to be expanded, that should be  
4 agreed. It should not just happen to an area, but  
5 it should happen in dialogue and in conjunction with  
6 the wishes of that area.

7 Several speakers have mentioned an area  
8 called -- in this part of the county, we call it the  
9 doughnut hole. And it's kind of a case in point of  
10 frankly, we think, bad governance. A picture tells  
11 a story here. The square area here, that's  
12 unincorporated King County. It's smack in the  
13 middle of the city of Maple Valley. And it's an  
14 unincorporated rural island, which as several  
15 speakers have mentioned, King County is thinking of  
16 using its land use control for putting up to two  
17 thousand dwelling units in, two thousand.

18 And that's-- one speaker mentioned that might  
19 be R8. That's actually R12. And that's in rural  
20 land, land that today is zoned so you can put one  
21 home per twenty acres. So to go from eight housing  
22 units to two thousand without agreement -- and the  
23 city of Maple Valley is completely against this.  
24 And the discussion is not over just who gets the  
25 fees. We think it's bad land use planning.

1 But while this is a unique situation of the  
2 doughnut hole, we believe it's the only rural island  
3 in the entirety of Washington state. There are many  
4 islands that are out there, urban islands, that  
5 haven't been incorporated. Also areas next to  
6 cities that the land use could be changed from rural  
7 to urban. And clearly for good planning, it seems  
8 like there should be agreement between entities of  
9 when those lines should be changed and what sort of  
10 densities should go within there.

11 But thank you for your time. We appreciate  
12 you coming out here tonight.

13 MR. JENSEN: Thank you.

14 Mark, I'm going to put you on the spot before  
15 I have Mr. Bonewitz speak. Can we run ten minutes  
16 late?

17 Mr. Bonewitz, I'm going to give you seven  
18 minutes.

19 MR. BONEWITZ: Good evening, I want to thank  
20 the four of the 21 of you who found the time to come  
21 tonight. That's very much appreciated.

22 Do I need a microphone? All right. I want to  
23 ask you how many of you drove down 169 through Maple  
24 Valley tonight? I am really just looking for the  
25 county and the commission and the county employees.

1 You understand most of our problems. You got an  
2 object lesson.

3 It's what it's called. And my name is Richard  
4 Bonewitz. I have been chairman of the greater Maple  
5 Valley area council for the past six years. Our  
6 unincorporated area council represents a large rural  
7 area and has been proactive on behalf of the  
8 citizens of this area and neighbors for 30 years, 18  
9 years before there was a charter UAC.

10 Warren is one of the early members. We are  
11 one of six UACs in the county. And our UAC's  
12 primary purpose is to facilitate communication  
13 between the county officials and elected people.

14 You have heard a lot about land use issues and  
15 some about zoning tonight. Parcels in our area are  
16 predominantly five acres or larger in general. I  
17 believe that this is the largest rural UAC in King  
18 County.

19 A key objective has been given to you by  
20 several members before me. And it was said very  
21 well by Ms. Myers over here. Key objective is to  
22 preserve the rural areas of King County with all its  
23 character, including the trees, the streams, the  
24 wild animals, the views of the mountain, the small  
25 farms with large animals such as cows, sheep, and

1 horses as well as small community churches and  
2 schools.

3 And in the county's own old comp plan, one of  
4 the major reasons that we are zoned the way we are  
5 is because the county when it was doing the initial  
6 plans putting together the comp plan wanted to keep  
7 a separator between the urban areas and the forest  
8 production districts and the ag area. These were  
9 all in accordance with the state's Growth Management  
10 Act.

11 It's being morphed yet today, skewed more  
12 toward development than ever before. But more than  
13 anything, our citizens want to continue to live the  
14 life style they are choosing, that is neither  
15 micromanaged by King County nor infringed on by  
16 sprawling development and incursion of urban  
17 infrastructure. That means Maple Valley, Covington,  
18 Black Diamond, anyone else that chooses to violate  
19 the basis of the plan.

20 Our biannual advisory surveys, and we do these  
21 every two years, confirm that the rural citizens do  
22 not want to be annexed by any city. We note that  
23 King County is the only major county in the United  
24 States that still includes a significant rural area  
25 with the attributes I just described a moment ago.



1 And please note that we rural area folks are  
2 cleaning your air and water every day and providing  
3 you with accessible, magnificent views and  
4 recreational opportunities at no cost.

5 We need to protect this rural area now,  
6 otherwise when it's gone, it's gone. I don't see--  
7 foresee another WPA program coming in and ripping up  
8 pavement and buildings. The time left to avoid Los  
9 Angeles county style development in this county is  
10 short. We have seen more than half of it disappear  
11 in the last 25 years. And so judging from that, the  
12 20 thousand buildable pieces of property in the  
13 rural area, as they are defined today by the  
14 building regulation, we have a decade or two at most  
15 to do something.

16 Three major areas of concern to the  
17 citizenship of unincorporated Maple Valley area are,  
18 one, high level growth in our surrounding cities,  
19 associated traffic increases, and migration of  
20 impacts in property taxes from citizens in the urban  
21 areas. The second major element of that is a  
22 fragmented and inadequate King County rural area  
23 policy development process. It does not  
24 periodically revalidate its long term vision with  
25 the people. It's a tweaking operation. It's

1        tweaked in minutia every year. And every four  
2        years, it's a little larger. But it's still a  
3        tweaking process. It has not gone back at any time  
4        since it's developed and revalidated the picture in  
5        the plan.

6                And, third, as you have heard, it's an  
7        inadequate representation of rural needs with  
8        respect to cities and states on top of planned  
9        development. We know that King County is expecting  
10       one million more people in the next twenty years,  
11       and every city and suburban city in King County is  
12       going to be driven to accept significant growth.  
13       And all the folks that live in the urban areas as  
14       well as the rural areas are going to be affected.  
15       That's almost half again in twenty years what we are  
16       today.

17               These traffic problems that you saw tonight  
18       are not going away. And you don't have the money at  
19       the county or the state level to fix them all. It's  
20       that simple. Big problems beget big opportunities.  
21       And that's what you all volunteered to help do with  
22       in the charter commission, your membership in the  
23       charter commission.

24               Together we have a unique situation and a  
25       unique opportunity to preserve this way of life,

1 including helping preserve some of yours. I want to  
2 focus on policy development process, passive and  
3 inadequate representation, rural needs with respect  
4 to the cities and the state.

5 We replaced something in the county that  
6 worked with something that doesn't work.  
7 Approximately 35 years ago, the county had the  
8 policy plan in process right when it facilitated  
9 community efforts to build sub area plans in Bear  
10 Creek, Soos Creek, which covers the general area  
11 we're in and which Mr. Carpenter has referred to  
12 here earlier in his presentation to you in May.

13 You might know that we are together on this  
14 subject. You may have guessed that. The sub area  
15 plans used a bottom up planning process, and this is  
16 the important part, that required several  
17 iterations. Citizens' needs were heard and  
18 incorporated to the community plans by a small  
19 professional staff within King County reporting to  
20 the executive.

21 The community plans were later combined to  
22 create the frame work of the comp plan and complied  
23 to provide a basis for the county compliance with  
24 the state Growth Management Act. We believe that  
25 most residents of the county have generally agreed

1 with that plan to date. But the rural area -- as I  
2 told you before, I do not believe the budget manager  
3 when he tells you that the urban areas are  
4 subsidizing the unincorporated. House prices are as  
5 high here as they are anywhere else. And if you  
6 have got five acres or more of land to go with them,  
7 the levy rights are the highest they are in the  
8 county in almost every case.

9 MR. JENSEN: I would like to end you now. I  
10 am going to have ask you to stop. Please submit  
11 your comments in writing.

12 MR. BONEWITZ: I will hand out four of them to  
13 you right now.

14 I am asking you to go back and revisit the  
15 presentation that you were given in May by  
16 Mr. Carpenter. It contains the essence of what we  
17 believe needs to be done by you.

18 MR. MUNRO: That has been e-mailed to every  
19 council member, sir.

20 MR. JENSEN: Two things before we start  
21 questions I wanted to point out. That's Tara Jo  
22 Heinecke in the back. And also just like  
23 Mr. Bonowitz is pointing out, the information that  
24 Tom Carpenter presented to us and the information  
25 that everybody has presented to us, I believe is

1       available on the website. I think everything is.  
2       But the information is still there. And it's  
3       available to us. The public input is wonderful,  
4       because it gives us something to go back to.

5               So we appreciate you being here. I want to go  
6       to Terry first.

7               MS. LAVENDER: It's a big question. I have  
8       puzzled and puzzled over how to-- what this type of  
9       better representation for the rural areas might look  
10      like, what the structure might be, what it might end  
11      up being. And that ranges from all sorts of things.  
12      Some of you have suggested changing the way the  
13      council is elected. The governance commission  
14      recommended townships be formed in the rural areas.  
15      And then the council would become more regional and  
16      more of an overview. That sets up another level of  
17      government.

18              The unincorporated area councils where they  
19      exist, most of them seek to work well, but there's  
20      whole parts of the county that have never done them.  
21      And I don't know why. Is that a solution to get  
22      representation across the whole county? There's  
23      been something like a department of rural affairs,  
24      where the county government has to have staff that  
25      focuses on rural issues, or things like just

1 adjusting budgets. I don't know where the right  
2 answer lies in there. So I guess it's a big  
3 question. What type of government do we need to  
4 have in order to represent the rural areas?

5 MR. JENSEN: Mr. Bonewitz, you were just up  
6 here, so I'll see if there's anyone else.

7 MR. FIELD: I first met Governor Lowry when I  
8 was doing a little thing called Cedar County. I  
9 won't go down that trip more than once. You  
10 mentioned townships. They would work. The problem  
11 is, the state legislator took them away. The state  
12 charter, the state constitution says we got to have  
13 them. It should have required a two thirds vote of  
14 the people in order to do that. It didn't. And  
15 then attorney general, said-- and so we don't have  
16 them. It would at least give us better  
17 representation than we got now.

18 It allows for election level officers.  
19 Certainly we don't have to go away from the county  
20 sheriff's office that serves us so well. That could  
21 be the municipal constable. It could be the same  
22 general area as your UACs now occupy. Those that  
23 want it, let them do it. Those that just don't give  
24 a whoop, don't worry about them, because they are  
25 not the ones that you are hearing from anyhow.

1 But it would provide at least a step between  
2 us and King County. It also provides some funding  
3 for what we do. There are also within townships, at  
4 least the way it was originally structured in  
5 Washington state, some police powers. You would  
6 have to do it in conjunction with-- and you couldn't  
7 violate like Growth Management Act, things like  
8 that. But it is doable if you can get the state  
9 legislature to reinstate them.

10 But it is a viable way of doing it. It's not  
11 perfect. But nothing is. But it's a step.

12 MR. JENSEN: Give Mr. Hammond a chance to  
13 speak to that.

14 MR. HAMMOND: Shy of the state legislature  
15 giving us an additional county that breaks -- and I  
16 appreciate the thoughtful response there -- that  
17 breaks this county so that the population densities  
18 are one county and some of the other places are not,  
19 that's been dissected many ways. The answer to your  
20 question, Terry, is it takes at every level,  
21 federal, state and local, it takes those in power  
22 being willing to give up that power. It just  
23 doesn't happen.

24 I looked at the township thing. It's just  
25 another layer of government, but still the county

1 council calling the shots. The only thing we can do  
2 at this point is to encourage more unincorporated  
3 area councils. And they don't have the final say.  
4 The King County council still has the final say.  
5 But the more of those we have, the better chance we  
6 have until someone voluntarily says, look, I have  
7 been king too long. I have decided I don't want to  
8 be king anymore. It's no pun on the county. It's  
9 just a statement.

10 MR. CARPENTER: The thing I want to make sure  
11 as you ponder this discussion, remember that there  
12 is sort of change in the world solutions. You get  
13 the fed and state and everybody lined up. We're  
14 talking about a ten-year period right now. So to  
15 give you another thought, it could be as simple as  
16 requiring the chair of the growth management and  
17 natural resources committee to come from a rural  
18 area. Maybe what has to happen, we make a shift  
19 into some of these internal things.

20 We have talked -- when we did the presentation  
21 to you guys in May. Maybe what's really needed for  
22 this evolution is to think more in terms of how the  
23 county functions and take a look at making some  
24 adjustments internally.

25 MR. JENSEN: Thank you very much,



1 Mr. Carpenter.

2 MR. MUNRO: I was just informing Mr. Bonewitz  
3 that Mr. Carpenter's very good presentation which  
4 was made down to the entire council has been  
5 duplicated and has been e-mailed or otherwise  
6 circulated to all the members. I haven't gotten to  
7 sitting down and reading every word of it. But I  
8 commit to you that I will.

9 MR. CARPENTER: I'm grateful by the way. You  
10 have got to work this all the way through. We're  
11 taking that same presentation and adjusting it. The  
12 next few weeks we'll talk with some of the staff on  
13 the council.

14 MS. HEINECKE: I just want to clarify, when  
15 you said council, you meant commission, right? That  
16 the presentation had been sent to all the  
17 commissioners, not the King County council?

18 MR. MUNRO: No.

19 MR. JENSEN: Mr. Bonowitz.

20 MR. BONEWITZ: I want to specifically address  
21 the comment that Terry made. I was a member of the  
22 commission on governance of King County. We did  
23 study the issue of townships. We did not recommend  
24 that as a solution to the county council or the  
25 executive. We had an internal subcommittee. We

1       spent some time, including some lawyers, on that  
2       subject.

3               One of the reasons is the current form of  
4       government in King County is so vastly different  
5       than the way townships are operated across mainly  
6       the eastern part of this country. And they have  
7       some roles that are almost entirely duplicative of  
8       what the King County Council's job is.

9               They do everything from maybe monitoring local  
10      cemeteries to having police powers taking care of  
11      health and welfare issues and a whole bunch of  
12      issues. This county at least in the opinions of the  
13      people on that subcommittee believe that it-- that  
14      the township form of government for the application  
15      in King County has been outmoded by events.

16              And that sort of ties in with what Tom said.  
17      You need to think in smaller steps that you can get  
18      done. And the smaller step that he outlined in his  
19      presentation to you, you need to take it to heart,  
20      is not to put another ombudsman in, but to get in  
21      front of the question. For that, you need something  
22      like the deputy executive for rural affairs and  
23      changes in the council structure. Those are the  
24      keys. Or something that you could do in a  
25      relatively simple manner, and staff those with some

1 people that do have some rural experience. Because  
2 98 percent of the people in this country live in an  
3 urban area and have never lived on a farm. And you  
4 are talking to some here that have. So you will see  
5 that large disconnect between how an urban person  
6 views an rural area and how a rural person views it.

7 MS. LAVENDER: I moved into the Bear Creek  
8 Basin at the end of the community planning process.  
9 And I do agree that King County did used to plan on  
10 a smaller level. The citizens seemed to connect  
11 with it better. So I take that to heart.

12 MR. BONEWITZ: And what you got was the buy in  
13 from the public.

14 MR. LOWRY: Well, this was a great hearing.  
15 And there was a lot of good comments. I am going to  
16 ask one that may be a really dumb idea. You know,  
17 there are some form of elected governments where  
18 council people are nominated by districts and  
19 elected at large.

20 Something right off the bat I myself may not  
21 like about that, I worry about the expense of  
22 running county wide and what that does for the  
23 general election. But, you know, another form of  
24 government is a nominate by council. So that means,  
25 you come from the nine different areas, but then the

1 election is at large which means there's some  
2 accountability there.

3 Mr. Chairman, I don't know if you want to hear  
4 whether anybody thinks that's a crazy idea or not.

5 MR. HAMMOND: I would love to speak to that.  
6 That actually exacerbates that problem. What you  
7 have is higher density populations having a greater  
8 voice.

9 MR. LOWRY: That could really be the thing.

10 MR. JENSEN: We have got one gentleman who  
11 hasn't spoken. I'll ask you to come up to the  
12 microphone.

13 MR. MCGURK: My name is Ed McGurk. I live out  
14 near Hobart. This question is for the gentleman  
15 near Maple Valley. How come those houses are so  
16 close? You can't get a fireman in the backyard.  
17 You're going to need firemen back there.

18 And another question is, who gets the money if  
19 a developer comes in here, and our street, he adds  
20 seven houses, but he got the county to pave the  
21 road? On 169, when they put those housing tracts  
22 in, those roads were all built. My taxes paid for  
23 some of them. How much did the developer pay to  
24 have those roads built? And this is for the young  
25 lady back there.

1           MR. JENSEN: What I'm going to do,  
2           Mr. McGurk -- I appreciate it. I don't want to have  
3           anybody in the audience put on the spot.

4           MR. MCGURK: I'm not putting them--

5           MR. JENSEN: I think it is.

6           MR. MCGURK: I went and bought some corn the  
7           other day. It was local. It tasted good. Couple  
8           days later, I bought some more. It didn't taste  
9           good. It was from California. And same with the  
10          fruit. That fruit doesn't taste right, because it  
11          comes from Mexico. And I know a lot of you people  
12          don't think much of President Bush. He's the  
13          greatest Republican president we have had. If you  
14          don't believe me, look at the national debt. You  
15          don't think that money went to the Democrats, do  
16          you?

17          MR. JENSEN: Thank you very much. Mr. Munro  
18          has a comment.

19          MR. MUNRO: I wanted to ask Anthony Hemstad  
20          the city manager of Maple Valley. Is the reason  
21          that you don't annex the doughnut hole that the  
22          current owners want to sell it and make the profit  
23          for development? Because you could annex it, I  
24          assume, and then you could zone it the way you want,  
25          and maybe for a minimal increase in density, but not

1 two thousand structures.

2 MR. HEMSTAD: No. The doughnut hole is  
3 really an anomaly. The owner is King County, King  
4 County Department of Transportation. And it's  
5 rural. We can't do any annexation zoning. We can't  
6 annex it, because it's outside of the urban growth  
7 boundaries. And that's also why it's such an  
8 eyebrow raiser that they are talking about two  
9 thousand homes.

10 If it was zoned urban -- Maple Valley needs  
11 many things. We have already met our twenty, twenty  
12 growth targets. We aren't looking for a 30 percent  
13 add in our population. But I'm-- I know this  
14 discussion isn't about Maple Valley zoning, so I'm  
15 happy to stick around afterwards.

16 MR. JENSEN: First I'm going to--

17 MR. HEMSTAD: In the urban area, the lowest  
18 zoning you can do is four per acre.

19 MR. JENSEN: So I want to ask if there's any  
20 other questions from the commissioners. Any other  
21 thoughts from the audience?

22 MR. HAMMOND: It was really a mess up on my  
23 part during my testimony. I should have said  
24 recommendations. This is all about recommendations.  
25 More unincorporated area councils. And get the DDES

1 fees out of the fee process into the standard  
2 budget. They were moved out because it was an  
3 experiment. I will say to you it was a failure.  
4 Let's get that off the back of the landowner who is  
5 continually burdened by the fact that they-- I don't  
6 need to go on. That's the recommendation.

7 MR. JENSEN: There's a gentleman in the back I  
8 don't think has spoken yet.

9 MR. HADDORN: My name is Peter Haddorn. And I  
10 just wanted to briefly talk, because I know our time  
11 is short. A lot of residents in this area, we have  
12 come together and we have created a web site,  
13 started a public petition so that everyone can make  
14 one collective voice heard and let the county know  
15 how dissatisfied and how upset a lot of residents  
16 are with the potential development of the doughnut  
17 hole area. The web site is  
18 [www.maplevalleydoughnuthole.org](http://www.maplevalleydoughnuthole.org). And there's a lot  
19 of information on there. And we have meetings every  
20 Saturday in the public library, if anyone is  
21 interested. They start at 10 a.m. in the morning.  
22 And we are a public group. And we want to get  
23 people's input of how we could get together with the  
24 county and get the citizens involved as well.

25 MR. JENSEN: I am going to put somebody on the

1 spot myself. There is a Maple Valley city  
2 councilwoman here this evening. My wife and I were  
3 watching King County TV, and we saw there was some  
4 sort of amendment that Mr. Dunn put on to the  
5 doughnut hole. Your mayor was there. Would you  
6 like to talk to that for a second and explain what  
7 we were watching, or would you prefer not to?

8 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Linda Johnson. I'm  
9 one of the council members in Maple Valley. And the  
10 doughnut hole is one of the biggest issues that's  
11 probably going to face Maple Valley for a lot of  
12 years to come. The impact to the community and to  
13 the rural areas is just mind boggling.

14 I went to the meeting in the library last  
15 week. And I would recommend that you all take a  
16 look at that site.

17 The question that you asked was about the  
18 annexation and the amendment to the ordinance that  
19 they were passing to do an emergency purchase and  
20 sale agreement to trade Icicle Creek property for  
21 the 160-acres in the doughnut hole. What Anthony  
22 and Reagan Dunn were trying to do was to get a  
23 commitment from the county to consider annexation as  
24 part of the discussion that is going on with what's  
25 going to happen to that property.



1           King County did not tell Maple Valley that  
2           they were intending to make this trade or go forward  
3           with this kind of an action. We had to find out  
4           about it from a third party. And when we started  
5           asking questions, they didn't like it. I went on  
6           the radio with Ron Sims on the 21st of June and  
7           asked him at that point to commit to annexing the  
8           property into Maple Valley as part of the purchase  
9           and sale agreement. And oh, no, we couldn't  
10          possibly do that. And he was not happy with my  
11          question.

12           We think that it's vital to Maple Valley. The  
13          school district can't plan for what school needs are  
14          going to be because that's rural property. We can't  
15          take a look at what's going to be the impact on  
16          transportation. We have no ability to plan on any  
17          of the zoning or any of the park needs or anything  
18          like that.

19           If we can't get King County to the table, they  
20          will develop the property. They will trade  
21          densities and pack densities from other rural areas  
22          on to the doughnut hole to get higher densities than  
23          we're talking about tonight. And then when the  
24          development is done, they will turn it over to Maple  
25          Valley. And that just does not seem right. And

1       they are very unwilling to come to the table. So we  
2       are looking at every possible way that we can to  
3       encourage their willingness to work with Maple  
4       Valley.

5               So far, the amendment, I think personally,  
6       came about because of my conversation with him on  
7       the radio. The timing is just too critical.  
8       Because up to that point, he was unwilling to even  
9       discuss putting any kind of annexation issue on to  
10      their ordinance.

11             What they have done is agree to discuss  
12      annexation at some point. Okay. We all trust King  
13      County a lot. So we're going to continue to work  
14      the property in as many different ways as we can.

15             And from a personal standpoint, it breaks my  
16      heart, because my tax dollars that go to King County  
17      are being used against me as a citizen of Maple  
18      Valley. And I object to that strenuously. Without  
19      even asking me about it.

20             While I'm up here, may I make one more  
21      comment? The conversation on the library board was  
22      I think excellent. And one of the things that  
23      concerns me significantly is that the library  
24      commissioners are all appointed. The citizens, as  
25      he pointed out, have no say, no control, no

1 leverage, no nothing over that library commission.  
2 Those positions and the amount of tax dollars over  
3 which they rule need to be elected. And I would  
4 strongly recommend that you take a look at that as  
5 you are looking at the charter. That is one  
6 commission-- I don't know many other commissions in  
7 King County that control as many tax dollars as they  
8 do that are appointed. There's just something  
9 drastically wrong with that.

10 MR. JENSEN: Thank you very much. I am going  
11 to wrap it up so we have a few minutes to mill  
12 around and talk.  
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